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**ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS PROGRAM GUIDANCE DOCUMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) and United States Fire Administration (USFA) announce to the nation's local fire departments the availability of the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Program Guidance document. The Program Guidance document is now available for download from the USFA Website [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) or from the ODP Website at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp).

The Program Guidance will provide applicants with insight into the priorities and eligible activities of the AFGP for the approaching application period. The application period is not currently open, but is planned to open on March 1, 2004. Potential applicants are encouraged to review the guidance carefully and compare their department's needs and circumstances with the program's priorities as a guide for defining their competitive application in the 2004 process. Applicants whose needs best reflect the program's priorities will have a better chance of receiving a grant through the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Other documents such as the Final Rule, Notice of Funds Availability, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be posted as they become available.